

A

Serious PROPOSAL

For PROMOTING

R

LAWFUL *and* HONOURABLE

MARRIAGE.

Address'd to the

UNMARRIED, of *both* SEXES.

Ὠραῖος δὲ γυναῖκα τεὸν ποτὶ οἶκον ἄγεσθαι,
Μηδὲ τριηκόντων ἐτέων μάλα πολλὰ ἀπολείπων,
Μηδ' ἐπιθεῖς μάλα πολλὰ γάμος δέ τοι ὥριος ἔτος.

HESIOD. Ἔργα καὶ Ἡμέρ. V. 693.

*An sedere oportuit
Domi Virginem tam grandem, dum cognatus hinc
Illinc veniret, expectantem? —*

TERENT. Adelph. Act. iv. Scen. v.

L O N D O N :

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Section PROPOSAL

For the purpose of

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MARRIAGE

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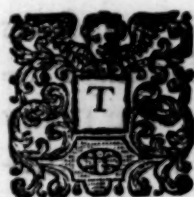
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A S E R I O U S
P R O P O S A L

F O R

Promoting and Encouraging Lawful
and Honourable MARRIAGE.



HERE are, we make no doubt,
many Single Ladies, in and about
this great City of *London*, who,
thro' too confined an Education, and
severe Restraint, have not been
so properly introduced into the World as
they ought; and have, by that means, lost
many Advantages, in respect of Marriage,
which others, no-ways more deserving, have,
from a quite contrary Treatment, acquired:
Or otherwise, from a natural Diffidence, Ti-
midity, or Reservedness of Temper, have, since
they have been their own Mistresses, led so
retired, and reclude a manner of Life, as to
have omitted, or denied themselves, those Op-
portunities of associating, and conversing with

B

Gentle-

Gentlemen, either in private Families, or public Assemblies, which are frequently taken, and that very innocently too, by others of a more free, and unconstrained Behaviour and Disposition.—There are others again, who, thro' either *Choice* or *Necessity*, have cultivated so slender, or ill-suited an Acquaintance amongst Single Men, as not to be able, on a fair Examination of their own Hearts, seriously to approve of any one in their whole Circle, that might be inclined to make Overtures of Marriage.

It is for these then, *and such as these*, who are, or have been, *liable* to any of the forementioned Disadvantages, but who still have no Objection to the married State, could they meet with a Person to their Liking, *or are desirous to meet with any such*, that the following Proposal is calculated: And that there are many very deserving Women in this Town, in something like the Circumstances before-described, we think no one can question, who, in the common Phrase, may be said to have any Acquaintance with, or to know much of the World.

If this then be, in any degree, the Case, we persuade ourselves, that, from the grave and sober Part of Man or Womankind, no Objection can be made, or Encouragement wanting, to a Proposal whereby a Lady may, *without Reserve, without Danger to her Reputation, without Fear of Insult or Contempt, with-*

out the Assistance of a Confident, *without* Offence to the most consummate Modesty, *without* Offence to the Laws of God or Man, *without* incurring the least Censure from others, nay, *without* the least Cause for censuring herself, *without* making herself known even to the very Person with whom she shall converse, unless by her own Choice; *without* being confined on any Pretence whatever one Moment longer than she likes; hold Conversation, and be in Company, with a Gentleman for two Hours, on the Terms of serious, and honourable Interview, in order to satisfy her Judgment, whether such Person, with whom she shall so converse, be worth her farther Notice; and be of such *Fortune, Disposition, or Person*, as she should chuse to make her an Husband.

We are very sensible, that the bare Mention of a Proposal of this kind is, from its Subject-matter, but too liable to be treated with Ridicule by those of both Sexes, whose Market, as we usually say, is already made; and with Sneer and Indecency by the intriguing and rakeish Part of the World; and perhaps also with Disapprobation, and affected Contempt, for Company-sake, or the better to obviate any Suspicion of being any-ways concerned, by those very Persons, who in their Hearts may be Well-wishers thereto; and, when they have duly considered of the Whole, will not think Scorn to make Experiment of their Success this way; when they are convinced, as we think

they must be, by the following Scheme, that the Whole is contrived, as effectually as possible, for the Preservation of their *Honour*, *Modesty*, and *Reputation*.

The Notion of a young Lady's so much as being willing to be married, and much more the making use of any Efforts towards it, we know, is a very popular Subject for Joke and Ridicule; for the Supposition is, that every Lady has it in her Power to command her Man whom, and when she pleases: And therefore, tho' an Offer be made ever so much to her Liking, she is still to be a great Admirer of a Single Life; not to hear such a Proposal without Blushing; hardly persuaded even to admit of the Address, and to be prevailed upon with the utmost Difficulty to consent and fix the Day, after a long Attendance, and the greatest Solicitation: And why all this? but to conform herself to those rigid, and absurd Rules of Mock-modesty, and Sham-reserve; the Laws of which, were introduced by Romance, and Gallantry, and are still cherished and fomented by Hypocrisy, and Imposture.—On the other hand, we would be far from recommending a bold or confident Behaviour; or, by this Proposal, giving the least Encouragement thereto: But this we really think, a Lady may, without any Impeachment of her Modesty, on an honourable Footing, converse with a Gentleman, on the Subject of Marriage, for an Hour or two, in a reputable House, where she is sure her
Honour

Honour is safe ; and not, from the most severe of her own Sex, incur the Imputation of either Levity, or Imprudence.

The most decent, and modest, as well as most eminent, and excellent, of our own Dramatic Writers, and who knew no less what the genuine, and proper, than the natural, and real Character of a good and virtuous Woman ought to be, seems, according to the best of our Remembrance, in all his Exemplars of the Amiable or Lovely, to have avoided, as much as possible, any thing of the Artful, Cunning, or Capricious, in the Carriage and Deportment of his Ladies that are worth a Straw : But, on the contrary, where his *Portia's*, *Miranda's*, *Imogen's*, and many others that might be added, once soberly and judiciously approve the Address made to them, without the least Doubling or Artifice, immediately declare the open and honest Sentiments of their Hearts, and make no Scruple of coming directly to the Point : And we think no one can, with any degree of Justice, charge either of these Characters with any thing like an immodest or unbecoming Forwardness.

If then the fore-mentioned Observations be true ; the Design of the following Proposal is no more than, First, To remove certain Restraints and Difficulties, either from the Rigidity of Custom, or Timidity of Temper, the Ladies may be supposed to lie under, with respect to their Treaties with Men on the Sub-

ject of Marriage. Secondly, To give them as many Opportunities as they shall think proper, in order to please themselves in the Choice of an Husband. And, Thirdly, to offer them all the Security they can possibly desire, that such Interview and Treaty shall not be more public, or more known, than they themselves shall be willing to make it—And thus much is thought sufficient to be observed by way of Introduction, *before we submit this Proposal to the Ladies for their candid Examination.*

We now beg Leave to offer a few Words by way of Recommendation to those Gentlemen, who, from their Manner of Life, Dispositions of Mind, or Turn of Temper, may, on their Part, be supposed to lie under certain Difficulties or Discouragements, in regard to their Intercourse and Acquaintance with, or Address to the Ladies; which the following Proposal is calculated to obviate.

Those who are ranked under this Denomination may be reckoned, First, Such as are born to independent Fortunes of Inheritance. Secondly, Those who have been bred to one or other of the Professions. And, Lastly, Such of the mercantile Part of Mankind, as are either actually carrying on Business, or by Success therein, or some other lucky Turn of Fortune, have acquired sufficient to set themselves down, in this respect, contented for the Remainder of their Lives.

It will not, we believe, be denied us, but that the chief and principal End of all these Pursuits of the sober and decent Part of Mankind, with respect to lucrative and worldly Acquirements, generally terminates in those Considerations we form to ourselves, arising from the Prospects of a conjugal and matrimonial Happiness: And, if this be the Case, there are, we may very reasonably suppose, amongst the several Ranks and Conditions of Men before-mentioned, many, who, tho' they have had frequent Opportunities, and could come well-recommended, have either thro' Diffidence, natural Bashfulness, or Fear of Repulse, declined offering themselves where they would have been glad of Success, and suffered the Object of their Affections to be taken away from them by one, whose only superior Merit perhaps was, that he ventured to make the Proposal.

There are others again, especially among the busy and active Part of the World, who, thro' too industrious an Attachment to the Means, have, in a manner, neglected the End; and from leading a Life so enveloped in Business, and the Affair of making a Fortune, have cultivated little or no Acquaintance amongst Women; insomuch that when the Time has come, that they seriously begin to think of marrying, they find themselves at a Loss to know where and to whom to apply, or, in the common Form of Speech, how to set about it.

Every Person, we should imagine, especially in a matter of this delicate Nature, would like to be his own Chuser: And tho' indeed Marriages are sometimes brought about by the Interposition and Recommendation of Friends and Acquaintance; yet has this, we believe, happened much oftener thro' a Necessity arising from some of the fore-mentioned Disadvantages, than a free Choice: For there are few but have so much Delicacy in their Composition, not to look upon it as a kind of Reflection on their Abilities, to be forced to apply even to their most intimate Acquaintance, to be help'd out in an Affair of this kind; and had much rather, from themselves alone, if it could be so managed, either applaud the Prudence of their own Election, if happy; or, if the contrary, excuse to themselves their own Inadvertency; than, on the one Side, be conscious of an everlasting Obligation; or, on the other, even doubt one's self to be either the Dupe or Fool of another's wrong Judgment, Partiality, or Imposition.

And we dare say, there is no Person that has lain under this Necessity, but, if he would own it, must confess, that he felt many uneasy Strugglings in his Mind, before he could bring himself seriously to break this Matter to his most intimate Friend, besides the awkward Circumlocutions, and strained Apologies, he is forced to use for his Honour's sake, how he comes to be at a Loss to help himself out on so critical an Occasion.

What

What is called the mere Gentleman, such a one we mean as is born to an Estate of Inheritance, certainly lies under fewer Difficulties of this kind, than any other; as having little else to do than to pursue what Course of Life he pleases: Yet here it sometimes happens, that an unsurmountable Bashfulness, Reservedness of Temper, or too sedentary a Way of Life, obstructs these very Advantages, and renders him a Sacrifice to his own Kitchen-stuff. the *Inamorato* of some clumsy *Thestylis* of his Tenants, or the easier Cully of some cunning Cast-off *Chloe*, recommended to him by a dear Friend (who knows the World) for the best-natured Girl upon Earth, and who will take special Care to lay herself in his way, and relieve his Terrors or Supineness, by making the first Overtures of Address. But if to our forementioned Gentleman be added, a Freedom and Liberality of Disposition, a real Knowledge of the World, with a degree of Politeness and Decorum requisite to form what is called the Agreeable,

The World is all before him where to chuse.

Yet again, even here, with all these advantageous Acquirements, things may be so untowardly circumstanced, that

————— *Either*
He never hath found out fit Mate, but such
As some Misfortune brought him, or Mistake;
Or, whom he wishes most, shall seldom gain,
Through

*Through her Perverseness; but shall see her gain'd
By a far worse : or, if she love, with-held
By Parents; or his happiest Choice too late
Hath met, already link'd, and wedlock-bound
To a fell Adversary, his Hate, or Shame :
Which infinite Calamity shall cause
To human Life.—*

Milt. Par. Lost, L. X. v. 898.

And thus may a Gentleman, with all imaginable Advantages of Birth, Fortune, and Education, from Disappointments such as these, spend the juvenile Part of his Life in the honourable, though fruitless Pursuit of Happiness in a married State; may, from a temporary Disgust, retire from the World to take a Breathing-time; and when, again reconciled by a few Years Sequestration, think it expedient to try once more, whether it may not be possible to meet with a Woman better adapted to his present way of Thinking. Besides, in any Circumstances, we do not think it at all improbable, that one who may have experienced certain Disappointments from *Choice*, may be reasonably inclined to try again what Recompence he may receive from something, that looks more like *Chance*, or good Fortune.

To such, whose Affections are engaged, and the Object of whose Choice is already fix'd, and determin'd; or where a degree of Acquaintance, Intimacy, and reciprocal Liking, has proceeded so far, as to remove those distant
Reserves

Reserves that generally accompany the first Advances in Courtship; our Proposal, we own, can be of little Avail, as may be easily gathered from what has gone before; nor indeed is it any Part of our present Intention, to shew off the special Advantages that may arise to any one, farther than will appear upon the Face of the Proposal itself; which, if there are any such, the Situation and Circumstances of each particular Person will much better suggest to himself, than any thing we can pretend to offer: But thus far we may observe, That the Affair of Gallantry, and *French Tendre*, has got such Footing amongst us, even in our most sober Concerns, that we would refer ourselves to any grave and modest Gentleman or Lady, who have come together with mere prudential Views, on the Terms of modern Courtship, whether the first Addressees, on either Side, were not very awkward, and uneasy, and they were not often more inclined to consider themselves as acting a Part, than aiding a serious Business: For the Misfortune is, be the Lady ever so discreet and sober a Woman, and ever so well disposed, this Piece of Mum-mery she must not dispense with for her Honour's sake. The World—The World—The *French* World will call her *Tramontane*.

The Cause is not surely in Nature, nor common Sense, that a Transaction so sober and interesting as the Affair of Marriage, and which extends its Consequences to the everlasting

lasting Happiness or Misery of the Parties concerned, should be treated with a Levity and Caprice unbecoming the common Occurrences of human Life : And from this Reason principally, we imagine, it proceeds, that the more grave and judicious Part of Mankind (could this Matter be put on a rational Footing) would be often found not less eligible, than that bold and loquacious Tribe, whose Forwardness and Dexterity in Affairs of this kind is owing, either to a certain National Effrontery, or a sputtering *French* Education. For,

— *In the Modesty of fearful Duty*
Is read as much, as from the rattling Tongue
Of saucy, and audacious Eloquence.

Shakespear's Midsummer Night's Dream.

It will evidently enough appear, we apprehend, from the Hints already given, to whom the following Proposal is address'd, and what sort of People are intended to be benefited by it : And that the Advantages arising from it, can be few, either to the giddy, fluttering Part of the World, who make Intrigue their principal Concern, or to those Gentlemen whose Estates are not to be found out of the *Blasque* Islands, on due Consideration, will be sufficiently clear.

The Objections to this Proposal, such, we mean, as may be likely to arise in the Minds of the serious and thinking Part of Mankind, shall be reserved as the last things to be considered ;

sidered ; and we do promise, that if any such occur, or be pointed out to us, which shall, in the least degree, tend to promote *Intrigue*, *clandestine Marriage*, or the *Dis honour* of Families, we shall be far from obstinately persisting herein, but, on sober and candid Conviction, will be as glad to acknowledge our Mistake, think ourselves obliged by such Information, and rectify our Errors, or as readily renounce all farther Prosecution, as we are, at present, sanguine, and solicitous for its Success: For we would be understood to intend no less the Emolument of the Many of both Sexes, who may be supposed, from what has been said before, to stand in need of some such kind of Assurances, as are offered by the following Proposal, than any lucrative Advantage to those concern'd in the carrying it on.

What gave Rise to the Proposal now before you, was the following Story ; which the Parties concern'd are so far from looking on, as any Reflection, that they make no Scruple of relating, with a Chearfulness, and Satisfaction, equal to their Happiness ; and acknowledge as the most especial Favour of Providence they have either of them ever experienced.

THIS last Summer, I accompanied a Friend of mine a few Miles into the Country, to make a Visit, and dine with an Acquaintance of his, at his Country-house. As soon as we alighted, which was between Twelve and One, we
were

were conducted into a very pretty Garden; where were the Gentleman, his Lady, their little Boy, about Five Years old, and a Girl, that seem'd a Year younger; and, to say the Truth, I have never met with more agreeable People, nor prettier behav'd Children, in my whole Life. In about half an Hour after we came in, the Lady, with her Two Little-ones, retired to dress herself by Dinner, whilst we continued in the Garden, conversing of various things, till within almost a Quarter of Two; when the Gentleman, looking on his Watch, made his Excuse for leaving us a little while to ourselves, and that he would wait on us again soon.

In his Absence, my Friend and I entertained ourselves with looking about us, and with some Observations on the Happiness, and good Humour, which seem'd to me, and he assured me really did subsist between this Couple, and their little Family.

In about a Quarter of an Hour, we saw coming down the Front Walk towards us, the Gentleman and Lady, dressed like Bride and Bridegroom, and both the Children with Favours; insomuch that, at the first View, I took them to be Visitors, come to Dinner in all their Formalities; nor indeed, when I found them to be the Family, did my Wonder much abate; and I began to think it a kind of overstrain'd Civility, to be all so full dress'd out, on our Accounts; a Piece of Ceremony, which, I imagined, might have been well excused.

We

We had not taken above a Turn or two, when a Servant came, to let us know Dinner was on the Table: And now again my Surprise increas'd very much, when I came into the Parlour, and saw the Servants in new Liveries; the Table covered with a first Course of Five of none of the least expensive and elegant Dishes; and, on the Side-table, standing an exceeding handsome Dessert; and no other Company but us Two: In short, we sat down, and dined as elegantly and well, as any one can be supposed to do on Ten Dishes; the best sorts of Wines, a fine Dessert, and with the most chearful, good-humoured, and agreeable Family.

As soon as Dinner was over, the Wine set on the Table, and the Servants withdrawn, the Lady filled herself a Bumper of *Burgundy* (which was the Wine, she said, she loved best); and addressing her Husband, with a Smile of Satisfaction and Love, that no Art or Dissimulation could counterfeit, "You know, says she, " my Dear, 'tis a Privilege you have given me, " to begin the Health of this Day; and every " Year of my Life, it is with Increase of Pleasure I can say, Here is Success to the *Daily Advertiser*:" And drank her Glafs.

The Gentleman, with great good Humour and Complacency, put the Bottle to my Friend, and said, with a Smile, You are to know, Mr.— this is our Wedding-day; and my
Wife,

Wife, you see, claims a Privilege, on this Anniversary, of speaking first; by which, I suppose, she would give you to understand, how much happier she is than her Husband; tho' I verily think, if I was inclined to a Dispute, I could easily prove the Advantage on my side.—But, if you will, Gentlemen, be so good as to pledge her, I will farther explain to you this Mystery.

We all drank the Toast given by the Lady, adding thereto the Compliments of the Day; when the Gentleman, turning to me, thus continued:

I was one of those young People, Sir, who had the good Fortune, if it may be so called, pretty early in Life, to be immersed in a great deal of Business, which so ingrossed my Time, that I attended to little else, till I was near Five-and-thirty; when, finding myself in tolerable Circumstances, and seeing several of my Friends happy in the married State, I began to think it high time for me, if ever, to follow their laudable Example: But yet the Difficulty was, to find the Woman; for my manner of Life, as I said before, had exempted me from many Opportunities of Choice, in that respect, which are frequent to others, who had less to do in the World; and besides, to say the Truth, when I came seriously to reflect, I could not find out one Woman in my narrow Acquaintance (for very narrow indeed it was), but was either already provided for, or to whom I had not
some

some material Objection; and whether it was Pride, or Shame, or both, I will not determine, I could not bear the awkward Figure of applying to a Friend in this Emergency; so was resolved to trust, in some measure, to Providence, and my own Judgment, to help me out; and therefore sent the following Advertisement * to the *Daily Advertiser*.

In about Ten Days (continued he) my Advertisement was answered according to Direction, by a Letter sign'd *Julia*; letting me know, that if I was a true Man, and no Impostor, and would give myself the Trouble to be at *such a House*, the *Tuesday* following, at such a Time, my Proposal should be taken into Consideration; and that if I was really in earnest, by asking for Mrs.——I should without farther Ceremony be admitted. I must own my Heart now aked a little: I was apprehensive of I know not what, and began to feel all those Doubts, Fears, and Misgivings, that I believe are natural to most People, on such an Occasion. I took the first Opportunity of going through the Street, and viewing the House: This, from its Appearance, I liked well enough, and began to take Heart a little: Then I inquired in the Neighbourhood, Who lived there? and was informed it was one Mrs. —— a Widow Lady (who, I expected,

* Here he repeated to us the Advertisement, which for certain Reasons we shall not insert.

would have given us her Company To-day at Dinner, and is my Wife's Aunt).

I then went to a Milaner's Shop I found in the same Street, with an Intention to buy something (but what I could not very well tell), and get some farther Intelligence: But however, I there furnished myself with a Pair of Gloves, and Three Yards of Silver Ribband, which I said I wanted for a little Girl of mine, (and for which, by the way, my Dear, you have not paid me to this Hour). Indeed, my Dear, replied the Lady, if you will consider a little, you must, I believe, acknowlege, that, in this respect, we are pretty well quits: For (then turning to her little Daughter, who was standing at her Right-hand, and, in the most cordial and affectionate Manner, stroking her under the Chin) here is a Girl, says she, I have brought you for your Ribbands; and I think, a very good Girl you must confess she is; and I will be determined by these Gentlemen, whether that Debt be not fully discharged.—Well, says the Gentleman, since you plead my Receipt, I believe I must acknowlege my Hand, and confess the Satisfaction.—But, Sir, continued he, I asked the young Woman in the Shop, if she knew Mrs.— and what was the State of her Family? And was informed, that she was a Widow of about Forty; with a very good Fortune; had lived in that House upwards of Four Years, in a very genteel Manner; kept Two Men Servants, and Three Maids;

Maids; saw not a great deal of Company, but those of the most reputable sort; and, upon the Whole, was a Woman of a very decent, modest, and good Character. Now, though these were all very good things; yet did it not at all answer the Terms of my Advertisement; for I was determined not to marry any Woman older than myself, at any rate.

I then asked, If she had no Daughter, or Niece, or Cousin, that lived with her? Was answered, That she knew of no such.—— But, Sir, says the Gypsy, with an arch kind of Smile, Mrs.—— seems very well satisfied with her Condition; and, if I guess right, is in no great Hurry to alter it.——I put the things in my Pocket, and thought it now time for me to be going. So home I went, to consider what was best to be done.

This was on the *Saturday*; and the *Tuesday* Evening following, my Tryal was to come on: And indeed, had it been for my Life, I could not have undergone more Solitude: One while, I thought I would drop the Affair, and proceed in it no farther: Again, I accused myself of the greatest Folly and Caprice, when the very End I proposed by my Advertisement; now so fairly offered, to shun what I had with so much Forecast and Consideration sought: Sometimes I walk'd about, conning Speeches; and, I suppose, address'd every Chair in the Room, two or three times over, in the Shape of the Lady: However, it was *Tuesday* Morn-

ing before I could come to a fixed Resolution of going; when I encouraged myself with this Reflection, that if I did not approve the Lady, I could not be forced into a Marriage against my Will; and the utmost that could happen to me was but to look a little silly before Strangers, who could know nothing more of me, than I thought fit to inform them, and whom, if I did not like, I still had it in my Power never to see again.

So that being now resolved, I dress'd, and went to Dinner with our Friend Mr.—(turning to the other Gentleman) whose Wife, you know, is one of the most lively, agreeable Women upon Earth, and with whom I used at that time to skirmish a little, upon the Subject of Matrimony. And indeed this answered very well; for, what between her Vivacity, and near a Bottle of Claret I drank after Dinner, I found myself in Spirits, fully equal to the Enterprize. So about Six o'Clock, I sent for a Chair, and away I went.

I was now set down at the Door; and, on the Footman's opening it, I asked for Mrs.—He made me no Answer; but conducted me up Stairs: When ordering my Chair to wait, I followed him. But now again, as I was going up, my Heart began to flutter pretty much; and I own I wish'd myself an hundred Miles off. I was then shewed into a Dining-room, where were Two Ladies, my Wife there, sitting in the Window, and the other Lady

Lady in a Settee near her.—I believe, my Dear, I made as ridiculous a Figure, as you would wish to see.—Indeed, my Dear, replied the Lady, I think my Looks at that time were none of the Wifest.

On my coming in, continued he, they both rose up; and, advancing towards the grave Lady, I address'd her pretty much to the following Effect.

Madam, said I—I believe—I am the Person who have the Honour to be appointed at this Time—to receive to—to receive your Commands.

Here, the Lady desired me to sit down: Which I did: But, Madam, said I—If—If there be—any Mistake—I hope—I hope you will excuse this Freedom; and impute it—to any Cause, but that of giving Offence—which, I am sure, is far from my Intentions.

She civilly bowed, and asked me, If I had drank Tea? I assured her I had (tho', by the way, I had not seen a Drop that Afternoon); for I could not bear the Thoughts of being stared at by the Footman: But this I found could not be avoided; for I had hardly finished this eloquent Speech, when the Tea was brought, and my good Lady, who, to do her Justice, is a very sensible, well-bred Woman, began to question me about the Public Affairs; and, in some degree, relieved the Confusion she saw I was under.

During this Time, we discoursed of indifferent Matters, and I began to get a little more Courage: But as soon as the Tea-things were removed, my Wife (who, I think, all this while, had not let me hear the Sound of her sweet Voice, more than in the Utterance of half a dozen *most significant* Words relating to the Strength or Weakness of her Tea) withdrew; and I saw no more of her, that Visit; and now, when the Lady and I were left quite alone, she began with me, to the following Effect.

“ The young Lady, Sir, you saw here just
 “ now, is the *Julia* you was appointed to
 “ meet as this Day, and is my Niece: She is
 “ intirely at her own Disposol; just turned of
 “ Six-and-twenty; and her Fortune is so-and-
 “ so—Her other Qualifications I shall leave
 “ to speak for themselves, on farther Acquaint-
 “ ance, if haply it shall be so agreed be-
 “ tween you. She is now gone home to her
 “ Lodgings, and I hope you will excuse the
 “ Shortness of this first Interview; but, if you
 “ have no Objection to the leaving with me
 “ your real Address, I shall see my Niece
 “ To-morrow; and if you hear nothing to
 “ the contrary, and are yourself so inclined,
 “ I shall be glad to see you here again on
 “ this Day Sevensight, about the same Time,
 “ when you shall have an Opportunity of
 “ coming to a more particular Explanation.”

The

The ingenuous Frankness, and good Humour, with which she delivered herself, at once dissipated all my Fears ; and I could not help conceiving a real Esteem for her, from that Moment.

I told her, that for my own Part, no Objection I was sure, could arise on my side to any thing she had said : And immediately I very honestly gave her my true Name, and Direction.

She very obligingly answered, that her Wishes were for both our Happiness ; adding, that, on my next Visit, if so it should be approved, I might inquire for Miss——for that was her Niece's real Name ; and that if, in the mean time, I should see any Cause to change my Mind, I might signify the same by a Letter directed to her, telling me also her own Name ; —and then, without giving me leave to reply, turned to the Window ; and, taking up *The Adventures of David Simple in Search of a true Friend*, which was about that time published, asked me, If I had read it ? adding, that however extravagant the Author's Plan might appear to some People, she herself was convinc'd, there was nothing so very absurd in the Supposition.

I found, from the Quickness of this Transition, that she expected nothing more from me upon the Subject at that Time. So I spun out my Visit for about half an Hour longer, and then took my Leave. All my Tremors and Doubts were now quite removed ; and

methought I was as bold as a Lion, and my Heart was as light as a Feather. So home I went, with a very different Disposition of Mind from what I had on the *Saturday* before, and with an earnest Expectation and Desire of the Interview appointed me on the *Tuesday* following.

The *Tuesday* Afternoon came; and I strictly kept my Time, asked for my *Julia* by her true Name, and was now carried into the same Dining-room, where I found her all alone. She colour'd a little on my first coming in; didn't you, my Dear?—But, in about half an Hour, we came to an Explanation, as I thought, to both our Satisfaction, and I obtained Leave for my next Visit to be at her own Lodgings—When the Tea came in, my Aunt gave us her Company, and our Conversation was now as free and unconstrained, as if we had all been acquainted for several Years. I wanted but little Intreaty, you may be sure, to stay the Evening; which I did: And about Eleven o'Clock, I was permitted to wait on my Wife home to her Lodgings, in my Aunt's Coach, which also carried me to my own House.

Things now began to have a pretty promising Aspect; and in short, I think about the Seventh Visit concluded my Wife, as you see she tells you, if you will believe her, a very happy Woman; for, on this Day Six Years, we were married: And I think, my Dear, in all this time, we have not been able, as yet, to agree upon

upon Terms of Separation betwixt us: And now, Sir, if my Wife was not present, I would finish this tedious Narrative by saying,

*Thus have I told you all my State, and brought
My Story to the Sum of earthly Blifs,
Which I enjoy ———*

MILT. Par. Lost, L.VIII. v. 511.

We thanked the Gentleman for his Story, and again congratulated their Happiness in a Bumper; when the Lady, turning to my Friend, said, From this Relation, Sir, you will think, perhaps, I was of a pretty enterprising, adventurous Disposition; but the Truth is, my Condition of Life was so circumstanced, that it was highly proper for me to marry; and the Retirement I had been necessitated to, gave me but little Opportunity of choosing for myself. So in this Affair I was merely passive, and put myself intirely under the Guidance and Direction of my Aunt, by whose Advice I made the Experiment; and, I am sure I need not blush to say, it was by my own Liking and Approbation concluded.

Just at this time the outer Bell rung, and we heard a Coach stop at the Gate; when the Lady, going to the Window, and perceiving it to be her Aunt, went out with her Little-ones into the Court to meet her; but, instead of coming in again to us, they walked directly towards the Garden; and, as they came under the Window, the Gentleman threw up the Sash, and made

made his Compliments to his Aunt; which she returned: When his Lady said, that if he would excuse her, they would take a Turn in the Garden, and dispatch a little Business she had with her Aunt, and then come in to us, or expect us in the Summer-house, and drink Tea there, as we should think fit.

Very well, my Dear, says the Gentleman; and when we have dispatched our Business, if these Gentlemen like it, we will come to you. To this we both readily agreed. So down again we sat to our Wine.

I must own, my Curiosity was now pretty strong to know in what Circumstances this Lady could have been, that the Aunt, who, by the extreme handsome Things he said of her, must be a discreet, sober Woman, could have thought it more prudent to recommend to her Niece an Experiment of this kind, than to proceed in the ordinary Course, by the Interposition and Recommendation of Friends and Acquaintance: And therefore I could not help observing to the Gentleman, that tho' his Method of Proceeding appeared somewhat extraordinary, yet the Event, which seemed so well to have answered it, if one might be allowed to judge in that manner, was a sufficient Justification on his Part: But still my Wonder was, how the young Lady came to have Courage enough to carry it on to an Interview; for that (asking his Pardon) I had always, till now, looked upon these kind of Advertisements

ments in too whimsical and ridiculous a Light to have imagined, they were ever considered, especially by the Ladies, in a serious View; or indeed had ever produced such an Effect as this Relation of his now convinced me they had.

Sir, replied the Gentleman, my Wife has already told you, it was by her Aunt's Counsel merely, that she acted in this Affair; and I verily believe, she gave her no other, than what, had it been her own Case, she would have followed herself; for that good Woman, worthy as she is, has suffered not a little, by adhering too strictly to the Advice of her Friends, as they are called, and too much neglecting to consult her own Judgment.

You must know, Sir, she was younger Sister to my Wife's Mother, who were left Co-heiresses, under Age, in the Guardianship and Care of a neighbouring Baronet, an intimate Friend and Acquaintance of their Father's; for their Mother died when they were both very young. Now this Gentleman was one of those wise People, who consider a Woman only as a Skin of Parchment, whereon to engross the Conveyance of so much Land to one's own Use; or as a stained Canvas, whereon to continue the Family Pictures; or as the most legal Method of strengthening and securing so much Interest in a Borough-Election.

For all these Purposes, his Wards seemed to promise pretty fair; and therefore the Eldest
of

of the Two, my Wife's Mother, he married to a Country Gentleman in the same Interest with himself; with whom she lived about Sixteen Years, and then died, leaving this one Daughter, who was the only Child they ever had: The other Sister, my Aunt, he prevailed with to marry a Nephew of his own, whose Fortune was the only Thing that could be called valuable belonging to him; for by all Accounts he was, to one of the best Women in the World, the most sour, silly, obstinate, and tyrannical Fool I ever heard of: And this Wretch she was over-persuaded to accept, very contrary, I believe, to her own Inclinations, in Preference to Mr. —; whose Fortune was, at that time, not so good; but, in all other respects, you know (turning to my Friend) is the direct Opposite to the Character I have given you of the other. This precious Husband of hers continued to torment her for about a Dozen Years; and then was so good as to release Her; ever since which time a Second Experiment of the kind seems to have been the last Thing in her Thoughts.

My Wife's Father, for the last Five or Six Years of his Life, was so thoroughly afflicted with the Gout, as hardly, I have heard her say, to be able, above so many times, in all that while, to get out of his own Chamber. He was excessively fond of his Daughter, whose chief Business was to read to him; and he seldom cared to have her out of his Sight: This
 Confine-

Confinement, tho' it debarr'd her of many Amusements and Opportunities, which other young Women usually have at her Time of Life; yet had she Prudence enough, I thank God, to turn to some tolerable Advantage, in respect of Music, Languages, and the bettering her Mind.

About Seven Years ago her Father died; and, lest she should not be able to provide herself a proper Heir, in case of her own Death; he wisely substituted one for her of his own getting; for, should she have died unmarried, her whole Fortune was, by his Will, disposed of to a young Fellow he had bred up to the Sea; who, returning from the *West Indies*, about Three Months after his Death, was a Rake upon the Town for some time; and then thought proper to marry one of the most profligate, infamous, and abandoned Women in it: And thus, Sir, happily for me, has a kind of providential Concurrence of Circumstances (for so I shall always thankfully esteem it) conspired to make me as happy in a Wife, as I think a Man can well be, who has, or, at least, thinks he has, one of the best Women in the World *.

* Many Circumstances relating to this Story are purposely shortened and omitted; for, though it be published with the Leave and Consent both of the Gentleman, and his Lady, who are far from making any Part hereof a Secret amongst their Friends and Acquaintance; yet would it be highly improper, in this public Manner, to point them out so certainly as not to be mistaken.

After

After sitting some time, till we had finished our Wine, and made such Reflections as most naturally occurred to us, and with which I need not trouble the Reader, we went into the Garden to the Ladies, who were in the Summer-house with the Children to receive us. Here we drank Tea, and should have spent the Evening, and staid all Night, but that my Friend was obliged to be in Town very early the next Morning; for, as to my own Part, I should have readily consented, if it had been convenient for us both; for I never saw, or conversed with, more affable and agreeable People in my Life; so that between Six and Seven my Friend's Chariot came to the Door, and we took our Leaves.

The several Circumstances of this Visit, you may be sure, furnished out Matter enough of Discourse and Observation between my Friend and me in our Way home: And he told me, that his Acquaintance in this Family had not been of above Three Years standing, and he had never heard this Story before: That no Man bore a better Character, in all respects, than Mr. —; and the common Report was, that his Fortune, which was very good before, received a considerable Addition by this Marriage; but that he never knew the Lady's Family till that Day: That he had often heard both the Gentleman and Lady mention this Aunt of theirs with the greatest Esteem and
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 Regard;

Regard ; but had never seen her till her Coming in that Afternoon.

This Story ran very much in my Head for several Days; when I bethought myself of many Circumstances relating to the following Proposal: And, on my telling my Friend my Thoughts hereupon, and desiring his in Return, he wrote me the following Letter, with which I shall conclude this Introduction.

Dear S I R,

THE Scheme, you was the other Day mentioning to me, I fairly acknowlege to you, I thought so whimsical, and liable to Objection, on its first Appearance, that I could not at that time, serious as you seemed to me about it, give you that Attention and Encouragement I wished to do: For, whether it was the Humour I was then in, or the Novelty of the Conceit, I cannot tell; but a Thousand ridiculous Images occurred to my Mind: And, though I think you have no Reason to doubt my real Esteem and Regard, for both your Judgment and Integrity; yet the Earnestness with which you recommended your Project, and the Number of Advantages you so glibly ran over to me, every one of which, you said, you could prove to a Demonstration, must necessarily accrue to the World from it, at once brought to my View the whole College of *Laputa*; and I am afraid, upon Recollection, you had but
too

too much Reason to complain of your Friend's Want of Candour and Ingenuity.

Nothing less than your extreme Good-nature, and consummate Easiness of Temper, I own, could have borne with me on this Occasion; for when, jokingly 'tis true, I advised you, before you opened your Shop, to consult Counsel, whether this new Method of smuggling Marriage might not render you liable to the Law; your ΑΓΓΑΡΕΙΑΙ ΓΑΜΙΚΟΙ, as you called them, whereby you proposed, at a small Expence, if this Scheme failed, to jumble two Lovers over the Stones from *London* to *Battersea*, and back again, into a Liking of each other, and the many Advantages you then reckoned up, and with much *serious Humour* recommended to my Consideration, in Return for my important and friendly Advice, as you archly enough observed, to my Shame convinced me, how well you yourself could distinguish, without *my Help*, between the grave and ridiculous Side of a Question; and I acknowledge, gave me more Compunction for my unseasonable Raillery, than a more grave and solemn Remonstrance could possibly have done. The Imagination, as I have heard you say, is as the Wardrobe of the Theatre, which will furnish out a thousand various Habits, some grave, some antic, and what not? But unless the Judgment and Understanding give these Figures Utterance, and form the different Characters to one Design; what is the Whole but a

Ward-

Wardrobe still? *Velut ægri Somnia.* And of this motley Cast, I doubt me, were my Observations when I last saw you.

Thus much, then, by way of sincere, tho' small Acknowledgement, and Apology, for my Behaviour towards you; which, I trust, you will readily admit: Because, where there is a real Esteem for you, as be assured mine is, I know your usual Adage will very obviously occur to you.

Ἀλλὰ μοι εὐάδε χόνδρῳ, &c.

And now, Sir, a short Word to your Scheme.

That the same is well intended, I never had any Doubt; but of this to convince the World, may give you some Trouble: For I think you have, in me, a Specimen of the Reception, on the first Appearance, it is likely to meet with. If, when you have drawn up your Proposal, you will give me Leave to peruse the same, you may depend on my Friendship, and Sincerity, whatever Opinion you may have conceived of my Judgment. And, as you really profess to be serious herein, I assure you, I will give you no more Cause of Complaint against me on that Score. There is one Piece of Advice, however, I will venture to give you; which is, to communicate this Scheme of yours to as few as possible, and those only of the married Kind: For assure yourself, amongst the unmarried, be it as innocent as it

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will,

will, and ever so much approved, in the private Judgment of each ; yet still it carries with it such a Smach of something like Guilt, as that, in a certain other Affair, those very Persons, who would be the first to commit it in private, will be the forwardest to ridicule, and condemn, in public. As to all other Matters, I beg to suspend my farther Judgment hereon, till you have put it into the Form you propose ; and, in the mean Time, believe me, with the utmost Sincerity,

Your affectionate Friend,

and humble Servant.



A R T I C L E S.

I.

IT is proposed, that two Public Offices be opened, at two different Parts of the City; viz. one near *Temple-Bar*, and the other near *Charing-Cross*: This to be called, **THE LADIES OFFICE** ; and that, **THE GENTLEMAN'S**.

Note,

Note, The Reason for two different Offices is, to avoid, as much as possible, all impertinent Curiosity, of either Sex; for, by this means, no Gentleman can pretend any Business at the Ladies Office, nor any Lady at the Gentleman's.

II.

That a Woman Registrar shall attend at the Ladies Office, and a Man at the Gentleman's, every *Tuesday, Thursday, and Saturday*, from Eleven till Two at Noon, and from Five till Eight in the Evening; to enter, and register, in each respective Office, such Persons as shall think proper either to come, or send, to each said Office, for that Purpose.

Note, The Reason for having the Registry open only three times a Week is, because the other Days are intended to be set apart for inspecting the Books (as see Article VIII.).

III.

That Books shall be kept at each of the said Offices, wherein such Names, Descriptions, &c. as hereafter mentioned, on paying the Office Fee, shall be faithfully entered.

Note, The original Books, or Letters sent, are never to be viewed, on any Account whatsoever; but true Copies, according to the Terms hereafter specified, shall be made out, for Inspection, against the Time appointed; as in Article VIII.

IV.

That on the Register Days, at the Hours aforesaid, the Door of the said Offices shall be kept shut, and not opened to any one but to such Party-principal as shall specially desire the same, in order to give his, or her, own Instructions, by Word of Mouth: But, on ringing the Bell, a Wicket in the said Door shall be opened, to receive such Letters, and Directions, as are sent.

Note, As the whole Business of receiving Letters, and Directions in Writing, and returning the proper Tokens (as see the Article following), cannot take up more than one Minute's Time; a principal Reason for this Caution, amongst others, is, to prevent the loitering, or curious Impertinency, of Servants, Porters, or other Messengers, who may be sent with the same.

V.

That on such Letter, or Direction (as hereafter mentioned), being given, and received, at the

the said Offices, either from the Party-principal, or his or her Messenger; an Office-stamp, sealed up (with our certain Seal), shall be delivered as a Token, or Certificate, that such Fee, as below, has been received, and such Entry duly made.

Note, This Office-stamp (as above), besides its being a Token, or Certificate, of the Fee, and Entry being made and received; is intended, also, as an Evidence, to ascertain the Identity of the Person, if required by either Party, on any future Interview (as see the Articles) relating thereto; and is therefore made to correspond with the Entry, by a Number thereon, to be entered in the private Book, as see below; and is sealed up with the Office-seal, as much as possible, again, to prevent Curiosity.

VI.

That the Entry shall be as faithfully made, on sending a Letter, according to the following Precedent, with the Fee, by a Messenger, as if the Party-principal was present.

Note, As an Office of this Kind may possibly excite a prying Curiosity, we think it most adviseable, and recommend it to such as shall think proper to register; rather to send, than come themselves: For unless they give in

their own Letter, and receive the Token, or Certificate, at the Door, as a Messenger, they will be under a Necessity of coming into the Office, and giving their Directions, and Description, by Word of Mouth; which, possibly, they may not chuse to do: But this is submitted to every one's own Judgment.

VII.

That the Fee to the Registry, for the Entry, be One Guinea.

Note, If any one shall object to this Fee, as too large, we shall not take upon us to persuade them, against their Wills, to be at such Expence: For they are to know, the only Advantage proposed by the Office, to such as shall register, is, to give them an Opportunity of *Correspondence* with any Person, on the opposite List, whose Description they may chance to approve; and if it be so agreed between them, a *personal Interview*, without being liable either to Curiosity, or Impertinence, or being more known than each Party shall chuse; as, by the following Articles, will more fully appear. Besides, it is no less the Interest and Concern of the Parties, than for the Advantage of the Office, to exclude, as much as possible, the mere vulgar and lower Part of either Sex: And as it is proposed, that the said Offices shall
subsist

subſiſt intirely on their Reputation, and Credit; it ſhall be our chief Care, that none but Perſons of Credit, and Reputation, ſhall be concerned therein; who cannot be ſuppoſed to give their Attendance without ſome Degree of Advantage ſuitable to the Truſt and Diligence required of them.

*Precedent of a LETTER of Deſcription,
and Direction to the Office for Entry,
on the Part of the Gentlemen.*

SUPERSCRPTION.

*To Mr. Green, at the Gentlemans Office,
—Court, near Temple-Bar.*

Bachelor, or Widower.

<i>Gratiano,</i>	}	Age—Height—Complexion—	{	Fortune, either
<i>Tho' White,</i>		Esq;—		in general (as)
		Gent. Independent		well to paſs:
		Profeſſion		moderate, good
		Trade		—or more par-
		Calling		ticular, as may
Day of the Month, and Year.				be thought pro-
Fee ſent. 1 Guinea.				per.

Direct, as by the *ſecond Name,*
To be left—

Note, The Reason of the Double Name, if duly considered, will appear, we imagine, in this Case, very proper: For the *first* is the Name to be entered in the Book for public Inspection (as see Art. VIII.); but the *second* is that by which the Office is, on Occasion, to direct and correspond with the Party; and is to be entered, together with the *Direction*, in a *private Book*, to be viewed by no-body; And therefore is it most adviseable, that *this* should carry the Appearance of a *real Name*, so as not, either in the Messenger, or Person with whom it is directed to be left, to excite Curiosity.

Precedent of a LETTER of Description, and Direction to the Office for Entry, on the Part of the Ladies.

SUPERScription.

(To Mrs. Thompson, at the Ladies Office,
—Court, Charing-Cross.

Spinster, or Widow.

Clarinda. } Age—Height—Complexion
Mary Brown. } Fortune (either special, or general), as is thought most proper.

Day of the Month, and Year.

Fee sent. 1 Guinea.

Direct, as by the second Name (*To Mrs. or Miss*), *To be left*—

Note,

Note, The same Reasons and Observations occur on this, as on the precedent for the Gentlemen; only I should recommend it to both, that the *Description*, and *Circumstances*, be not so very wide of the real Truth, as that, by an Extravagance in either, they should foolishly defeat their own Purposes, and be ashamed or afraid of any *future Interview*, thro' a Consciousness of not being able, in any Degree, to answer thereto. For be it remembered, as has been observed before, that this Proposal is by no means either calculated, or intended, to promote the laudable Trade of Fortune-hunting.

VIII.

That, as soon as Thirty Persons shall have entered, in each Registry, a true Extract shall be made out, from either Office, and public Notice given, where and when the same shall be viewed, by any Person, for a Shilling Fee.

Note, On this Article we have some Observations, which, as they concern only such as shall think proper to register, we shall communicate to them *only*, before the Time of Inspection.

IX.

That no Gentleman shall inspect the Man's Register, and no Lady the Woman's.

Note,

Note, As no End can be proposed, by any Gentleman's viewing the Gentleman's, or any Lady the Ladies Register, besides the gratifying an idle Curiosity; and as it shall be our principal Care and Concern, as much as possible, to frustrate and prevent the same, which, if indulged, could have none other Effect, but, from the Description, &c. to set People guessing, and foolishly applying the same to some one or other of their Acquaintance; we have appointed, that a true Copy, of the different Registers for public Inspection, be opened at each opposite Office; that is to say, the Copy of the Gentleman's Register to be viewed at the Ladies Office, and the Copy of the Ladies at the Gentleman's Office: Or, otherwise, if, on farther Consideration, it be found more convenient to open the said Inspection-books at two other different Places, whereof timely Notice shall be given; but still so, as there be no interfering of the different Sexes.

X.

That the *Direction*, together with the *second Name* (as see Precedents), shall be entered in a *private Book*, to be viewed by no Person whatever.

Note, The first Name *only*, as has been observed before, is that which, together with the

the Description, and other general Circumstances, is to be copied out in the Books for View; and on the Inspection-days, at the certain appointed Hours for the same, Persons shall attend at each Office for that Purpose; when the Doors will be open; and any Gentleman or Gentlemen, at the Gentleman's Office, and any Lady or Ladies at the Ladies Office, or other Place appointed, (for the Fee, from each, above-mentioned,) may examine the said Books, but take no Copy thereof.

XI.

That on *Mondays, Wednesdays, and Fridays*, from Eleven till Two in the Forenoon, and from Five to Seven in the Afternoon, the Registers shall be open, for Inspection.

Note, Duplicates, or Triplicates, of the said Registers and Entries, shall be provided, at each of the said Places of Inspection, to prevent Delays, as Occasion shall require.

XII.

That if any Gentleman, or Lady, on looking over their opposite Registers, shall approve of any Description, and Circumstances, as there entered, so as to desire an Interview with such Person; on sending a Letter, directed to the said Office as above, and subscribed by his or
her

her *second* Name, or *popular* Name, with the *Number* on the Stamp before the Date, of such Proposal; the same shall be immediately communicated to such Lady, or Gentleman, and his or her Answer thereto, transmitted, as soon as received.

Note, It has been before observed, that, on each Person's registering, an *Office-stamp* shall be delivered to them, sealed up, &c. on which Stamp, at the lower Part thereof, will be a *Number*, to correspond with the like, to be entered in the *private Book*, together with each Person's *second Name*, and *Direction*; Therefore, in order to ascertain the Identity, and be an Evidence to the Office, that such Person is really registered, it is required, that such Letter, desiring an Interview, be subscribed either with the *second Name*, or with the *popular Name*, and *Number before the Date*; to prevent Mistakes, or Impositions.

If any Gentleman, or Lady, shall chuse to make such Proposal for *Interview*, merely of themselves, without the Interposition of the Office, and will send such their Letter of Proposal, sealed, and inclosed, with *Instructions* to have the same forwarded, and such *Instructions* evidenced, by the *Subscription* and *Number*, as above, so as that the Office may be ascertained the same comes from a Person duly registered; their *Inclosed* shall be properly directed to such
Gentleman,

Gentleman, or Lady, as desired; and forwarded, immediately; by paying, or sending to the said Office, together with the said *Instructions*, and *Letter inclosed*, a Shilling Fee.

XIII.

That if any Gentleman, and Lady, shall agree to an *Interview*, unless otherwise settled between themselves; by signifying the same to the said Office, a *private House*, of *Reputation* and *Credit*, shall be prepared, for such *Interview*, and signified to both Parties, according to the Terms and Conditions in the subsequent Articles.

Note, If any Gentleman, and Lady, chuse to carry on their Correspondence, without the Interposition of the Office, farther than concerns the *Direction*, and sending their Letters; they may do the same, as above, for the Expence of One Shilling each Letter, till they think proper to make themselves more particularly known to each other: But if the Aid of the Office be desired herein, due Preparation shall be made, and signified, as in this Article mentioned; for which Purpose, Six different Houses are retained, in different Parts of the Town, kept by *reputable* Persons; who, before this Proposal take Effect, shall enter into Engagements with the said Office, strictly to observe the Articles

Articles and Conditions appointed for such
Interview.

Furthermore, if any Person shall send his or her Proposal, for *Interview*, to the said Office, authenticated as above, to be communicated to the contrary Party from the said Office; such Proposal shall be made, and sent accordingly; and the Answer thereto returned, as soon as received, without *Fee* or *Reward*: And that such original Proposal, for *Interview*, remain in the Office, to be seen by no one. But a Copy of the same, under the *popular Name*, shall be sent to the Party; and the *second Name*, if such be subscribed, and also the *Number*, before the Date, to be omitted: For by the *popular Name*, *Description*, and *Circumstances*, as they stand in the Book for *public Inspection*, any Person may judge whether they approve of such *Interview* proposed.

XIV.

That such *Interview* be only from Seven o'Clock to Nine, in the Evening.

Note, These Hours are appointed, as the most convenient to avoid Observation; especially in the Winter: But still, if, by Consent of Parties, any other two, either Morning, or Afternoon, be desired, so as that the same expire before Nine at Night, unless good Cause to the contrary; we shall readily comply therewith.

Tho'

Tho' all the Houses, to be appointed for *Interview*, shall be truly *reputable*, and of good *Credit*, and kept by *reputable* and *creditable* Persons, as before-mentioned; yet, as the knowing of *such* can be of no Use to any, but *Persons concerned*; we think it not adviseable, or prudent, to point out the same, in any public Manner: And, on the Designation of any such House, if either of the Parties have any Objection thereto, as being situated, or kept by Persons, *where*, or *by whom*, they may be in any Likelihood of being known; the same shall be altered to some other more convenient: Also, the *Gentleman*, on such *Interview*, is expected to be at the Place of Appointment, at least a *Quarter of an Hour*, before the Lady; unless she shall direct to the contrary, and chuse herself to be there first.

That on each Party's coming to the said *House*, and knocking, or ringing, at the Door thereof; a *Guard*, appointed for this Purpose, shall be ready to open the same; and, on only mentioning to him *the Number* they bear, on their *Office-stamp*, shall be immediately admitted, and conducted into the Room set apart for such *Interview*; and no Questions asked, or any other Person seen.

XV.

That the *Room*, where such *Interview* is had, shall have neither *Latch*, *Lock*, *Bolt*, nor *Bar*, on the Door; but a *Draw-pulley* only, fixed thereon,

thereon, to keep the same shut to; and shall be handsomely furnished, and prepared with a good Fire, and Candles, by the Time appointed.

Note, By being thus particular, in this Article, we mean only to obviate, as much as we can, the least Suspicion of any Opportunity given, for the Business of carrying on any immodest or intriguing Purpose, or Correspondence. For tho' this whole Proposal be calculated for an *Undiscoverable Privacy*; yet is it no less our principal Concern, to prevent, and hinder, as much as possible, the least Degree of *Rudeness*, or *Indecency*, of any Kind whatever.

XVI.

That the *Guard*, during such *Interview*, shall be constantly *within Call*, and not depart, or be sent away, till the Time expired, on any Account.

Note, Our *Guard*, on such Occasions, it shall be our greatest Care to have, as well *civil*, and *well-behaved*, as *honest*, *vigilant*, *dauntless*, and *faithful* to the Purposes he is appointed; which are, as was hinted before, to prevent, as much as possible, any *impertinent Curiosity*, from *without*, and any *Rudeness*, *Indecency*, or *unbecoming Liberties*, offered to be taken *within*: And therefore our said *Guards*, so to be employed, shall enter
into

into *Security*, for their good Behaviour, and faithful Discharge of Duty to the Office, in a *Depositum* of *Five Pounds*, to be forfeited on any Breach of the same: Which *Depositum*, on Complaint of either Party, *to the said Office*, of *Remissness*, *Rudeness*, or *Incivility* of such *Guard*, by *Affidavit* thereof made, before any of his Majesty's *Justices of Peace*, and transmitted to the said Office, shall be forfeited, and paid by the *Office-keeper* of the *Gentleman's Office*, or *Ladies*, to such Person complaining, or his or her *certain Order*, signed by their *second Name*, and *Number*, within *Fourteen Days* after such Complaint, and *Affidavit* transmitted; and such *Guard* for ever discharged.

And now, because some Difficulty may perhaps appear, in the making such Complaint *effectual*, and *satisfactory* to the Office; and may, therefore, be supposed to be added, for a *Colour* only: We think it incumbent on us to point out, in what Manner such *Complaint*, and *Affidavit*, may be so *securely* made, by any Person, as to run but little Danger of making themselves known, and be yet a *sufficient Evidence* herein. As thus:

First, Let such Person, who has Cause of Complaint, write the same within *Four Days* of the *Interview*, and send it to the Office, signed with their *second Name*, and *Number*, as above, and marked at the Top thereof with the Letters

E

A,

A, B, C, or D, or any other Mark; by which the Identity thereof may be ascertained by the Affidavit.

Then let him, or her, go before one of his Majesty's *Justices of Peace*, and make *Affidavit, in Writing*, to the Effect following; *viz.*

That all the Matters and Things, alleged and deduced in a certain Paper Writing, bearing Date the ——— Day of ——— in the Year of our Lord ——— subscribed with the Name ——— marked at the Top thereof with the Letter ——— and on the ——— Day of ——— sent, received, and now remaining in ——— Office; are strictly and conscientiously true, without Covin, Fraud, or Collusion.

Witness ———

Or, otherwise, if any Person chuse rather, let them, as before, write their Complaint, and *seal up* the same, and then make *Affidavit* to the Truth of the Matters therein contained; and, *annexing* the said *sealed-up Paper*, signed on the *Outside* by the *Justice's Clerk*, to the *Affidavit*, to ascertain the *Identity* of the same, they may transmit *both* to the Office together, and the same shall be taken, as Evidence.

And whereas the *true and real Name* of the *Juror* must be subscribed, and their *Parish*, and *Place of Abode*, are most commonly specified in *Affidavits*, and cannot well be omitted on drawing, and making the same: In order, therefore,

therefore, to keep themselves still unknown, to the said Office, or any other ; such Person shall be at Liberty, to erase, or obliterate such *Subscription*, or *Specification*, before sending It to the Office ; and the same Regard, and Credit, shall be paid, and given thereto, as if no such Rasure or Obliteration had been made. And thus far we think proper to make ourselves accountable, for the Behaviour of our Servants ; which, on our Part, shall be punctually observed, on such Occasions. We are very sensible, of how much Importance it is, both to the Office, and the Persons concerned, that strict Decency, and Civility, be preserved on all Hands ; and all impertinent Curiosity prevented, and avoided.

And now, after such *Complaint*, and *Affidavit*, made and sent as above, such Person may draw an *Order*, signed with his or her *second Name*, on the Office, for the said *Forfeiture*, which shall be honoured ; the Person who brings the same for Acceptance, going before a *Justice of Peace*, and making Oath, “ That he knows, and is well acquainted with
 “ the Drawer of such *Order*, and verily believes Him, or Her, to be an honest and just
 “ Person ; and would not, on any Account
 “ whatever, be guilty of taking a false Oath,
 “ to cheat or defraud any one.” And hereupon, Three Days of Grace being given, if, on Inquiry, such *Compurgator* appear to be a creditable, reputable Person ; the said *Forfeiture*

of *Five Pounds* shall be punctually paid, and no Questions asked, or farther Inquiry made. And hereto, I think, there can be no Objection: For, surely, it is but reasonable that we, on our Part, should have thus much Satisfaction, of the Credit and Reputation of the Drawer, that we are not imposed on.

Furthermore, if any Enormity, within the Conusance of the Law, be, on any such Occasion, committed; the same shall be prosecuted, at the Expence of the Office, in such Manner as the Party aggrieved, or his or her Counsel, shall direct; and no Method omitted, to bring such Offender to Justice.

XVII.

That the Lady, on such *Interview*, shall be at Liberty to come in a *Veil*; which is not, against her Consent, to be taken off, on any Account whatever.

Note, If any Rudeness, of this, or any other Kind, be offered, or attempted, by any Gentleman, during such *Interview*; our *Guard* has strict Orders, on being called, immediately to interpose; and, if the Lady shall so insist thereon, is to see that such Gentleman immediately leave the House: And the said *Guard* shall, moreover, be obliged, for a *Shilling Fee*, if *one Mile*, and *Half a Crown*, if *more*, to attend such Lady's Coach, or Chair,

Chair, as she shall think fit, to any House, at any Part of the Town she shall direct; to prevent her being dogg'd, or insulted. And hereof our said *Guard* is not to fail, on the *Forfeiture* as above; due Complaint being made.

And whereas, on such *Interview*, it may so happen, that a Lady may meet a *near Relation*, or *Acquaintance*, to whom she would not care to make herself known: On any such Discovery, she shall be at Liberty to retire into another Room; and, by giving Orders to the Person on *Guard*, a Coach, or Chair, shall be called for her, and Notice given, to such Gentleman, that the Lady will no more return: Whereupon, he may order, also, a Coach, or Chair, for himself; or go in what Manner he shall think fit. If the Gentleman go first, the *Guard* shall be obliged to attend the Lady, if so required, for the Fee, and for the Purposes, as above-mentioned: But if the Lady go first, no such Occasion can require; only the *Guard* is to take care to conduct her to her Coach, or Chair, without the Observation or Privy of the said Gentleman; who, in *this* Case, and all *others*, unless he chuses to go first himself, shall be obliged not to depart, till such Lady's Coach, or Chair, has been gone from the Door with her at least Five Minutes.

XVIII.

That the Gentleman, on such *Interview*, either come without, or leave his *Sword* with the Person on *Guard*; who shall deliver the same to him again, on his Departure.

Note, Tho' we do not apprehend any Danger, or Inconvenience, from any Gentleman's keeping on his *Sword*; yet his delivering it to the *Guard* is some Evidence, that he means to conform himself to Rules; and is, besides, considered as a *Depositum*, that, unless he chuses to go before the Lady, he will stay till her Coach, or Chair, be departed from the Door Five Minutes, at least; before he will require the same to be re-delivered.

XIX.

That if any Gentleman, or Lady, thro' Wantonness, or Levity, either make, or accept such Appointment for *Interview*, and without sufficient and reasonable Cause, or timely Notice given to the Office, whereby he or she may be made acquainted therewith, break the same; such Person's Entry shall be immediately struck out of the Register.

Note, Here we have no other Observation to make, but that, if this Article should be thought

thought useless, or superfluous; we hope it will always remain so: For we mean no more by it, than to take all the Care, in our Power, that the same Person shall not indulge themselves in such Folly, and Wantonness, more than once, if we can help it: And, truly, any one must have a very extraordinary Spirit for Fooling, that can think it worth their while to be at a Guinea Expence, only for the Pleasure of disappointing they cannot tell who.

XX.

That the *Fee* for such *Interview* be *Half a Guinea*, to be paid to the *Guard* by *each Person*, on his and her first coming in.

Note, This *Fee*, I think, cannot be objected to as unreasonable, when it is considered, that all Letters, Instructions, and Directions, on both Sides, previous to such *Interview*, are to be received, observed, and forwarded, without *Fee*, or *Reward*; and that the Expences of the *House*, and *Guard*, as we are determined to make use of none but such as are both *reputable*, and *faithful*, are to be gratified, and paid, as such.

XXI.

That if any Gentleman and Lady, on such *Interview*, agree on a *second*; by giving due

Notice thereof to the *Guard*, of such their Agreement, they shall, for the *Fees as above*, be accommodated as before.

Note, If any such Agreement, for a *second Interview*, be had between them, and, at the same time, any Objection to the *Guard*, or *House of Interview*, or any other *Matter*, or *Circumstance*, relating thereto, arise, so as that they should chuse to have any *Alteration*, or *Change*, of either; on each Party signifying such their Desire to the Office, the same shall be either, or both, changed, without assigning any Cause, but such their Desire; and Notice thereof given to both Parties. And if, after such Agreement to a *second Interview*, either of the Parties shall think fit to waive the same; on Notice given thereof, to the Office, the same shall be forthwith communicated to the other Party, without Fee, or Reward.

XXII.

That not more than a *second Interview* be had, by the Aid and Interposition of the Office, between the same Parties.

Note, It is not very likely that more than a *second* will be ever required: For on *such Interview*, where two Persons are really and soberly in earnest, it might be reasonably expected, that the *third* should be either at the
Lady's

Lady's own House, or, at least, such as they may agree upon between themselves: And therefore, unless better than mere lucrative Cause be shewn, on both Sides; we shall, after a *second Interview*, hold our Office fully discharged; for we would be understood to lend our Aid, herein, no farther than to give both Parties an Opportunity of proving how far each may be acceptable to each, so as that an honourable and fair Occasion may be offered, on either Side, for any future Proposal of Marriage. For the Intention of our Office is not to continue an Intimacy, but to begin an Acquaintance.

XXIII.

That no Person be permitted to register under the Age of Twenty-one, unless Widow, or Widower.

Note, Here it will be natural enough to ask, How we shall know a Person's Age? For may they not send what Age, Description, and Circumstances, they please? To this it is answered; We mean, only, that none such shall be registered: For, doubtless, we are full as liable to be imposed on, in this Particular, as any Faculty-office for Marriage-licences whatever. But with our Privity and Knowledge no such Thing shall be suffered, and this is all we can promise; but cannot

cannot take upon us to say, that an artful, or cunning Person, shall not make an ill Use of the Opportunity here given them, more than they may of going to Church, or other innocent or lawful Assembly. But this we will be answerable for, That no one shall, with our Consent, or Furtherance, carry on any unlawful or clandestine Purposes, under any other Pretext but that of a fair and honourable Transaction; and this is as much as the most prudent, circumspect, and careful Parent, or Guardian, can engage. For we here repeat it again, That we desire our Office to subsist no longer than it shall maintain its Honour, and strict Adherence to the Rules of Decency and Sobriety; from which whenever we depart, we neither ask, or expect, any Favour from the Public. It may possibly also be asked, How shall I be ascertained of the Truth of such Age, Description, and Circumstances, as registered, so as I be not impos'd on? We answer, Be not impos'd on; for this is your own Concern: Ours is no more than to open an Opportunity of *Interview*, by your own Consent, in order to lay the Foundation of farther Satisfaction herein: For the bare meeting, implies no Necessity of your marrying against your Liking, and Approbation. Therefore if the Age, Description, &c. do not answer, you are still at Liberty; your Curiosity has been, without Hazard, gratified; and should

you not approve, you may, if you please, complain that your Time and Money are thrown away: But we cannot help it. For you are to remember, we are accountable for nothing farther, than the *Privacy*, *Decency*, and *Decorum*, of such *Interview*.

And thus have we laid before you a Plan of our Design: And now, how well the same is calculated for the Service and Advantage of those for whom it is intended, must be submitted to every one's private Judgment. We say *private Judgment*, because we are well aware, how few there are, of either Sex, who will venture to avow their Approbation hereof, how much soever it might be to their Liking: And therefore, as we profess ourselves *serious* herein, we, in this Manner, make our Address solely to the *serious* Opinion of others, before we offer to put our Scheme in Execution; that we may be well advis'd, either how far the same is productive of any evil, or bad Effects, and so totally laid aside; or receive any Addition, or Alteration, for the better and more effectually answering the Purposes hereby intended. But as to the whole Tribe of Bams, Cunundrums, Jokes, Carawitchits, Witticisms, ridiculous Allusions, quaint Metaphors, Ironies, Sarcasms, Bon Mots, Puffs, Ribaldry, Scurrility, or, if there be any other Species of ridiculous Buffoonry, by which what is serious may be turned to Farce; this we shall neither
be

be at the Trouble of answering, or taking any Notice of ; for we know, already, how much the Subject itself will be a Temptation to Things of this Kind; and, were we so dispos'd, could be as merry, on the Occasion, as another; and, for Company's sake, possibly may: But, at present, we would be willing to postpone the *Dance* till after the *Serious Council*. For nothing, but what has a Cast of this Kind, either public, or private, will meet with a suitable Regard from us, or grateful Acknowledgement.

OBJECTIONS *answered*.

BUT now, to put you in mind, once more, of our Title-page, and (as we promis'd) to take some Notice of such Objections as are most likely to occur, on the first Perusal hereof.— This Proposal we have called *Serious*, because both the Subject, and Predicate, we think, may well deserve such Consideration; for a very moderate Degree of Observation is sufficient to convince any Man, of how much Importance it is, to his future Happiness, to make the best Use of his Judgment, and be more than ordinarily careful and solicitous, in a Concern that, in all human Probability, will be the Foundation, on which his most interesting Hopes and Expectations, in this World, are to rest.

—ὦ δ' αὖτε γάμβ μὲ μοῖρα γένηται,
Κεδρὴν δ' ἔχει ἀκοίην, ἀραρυῖαν περὶ πίδασι,

Τῇ

Τῷ δ' ἂν αὖτ' αἰῶν^{ος} κακὸν ἐδλῶ ἀνιφερῖζει
 ἔμμεναι ὅς δέ κε τέτμη' ἀταρτηροῖο γενέθλης,
 Ζῶει ἐνὶ στήθεσιν ἔχων ἀλίαςον ἀνὴν
 θυμῷ καὶ κραδίῃ, καὶ ἀνήκεστον κακὸν ἐστὶ.

HESIOD. Θεοῖ. Ver. 607.

Nor, on the other hand, I should imagine, would any Lady be less cautious, and circumspect, who soberly and conscientiously weighs and considers the Terms and Conditions she must necessarily consign to, before she can become a Wife. This Caution, then, I hope, will not appear impertinent, to such as shall duly attend to the real Purpose and Intent of this Proposal; which (as has been hinted before) is, as much as possibly we have been able, calculated for the Benefit of such only, of both Sexes, of an *independent Condition of Life*, who, lying under any of the Disadvantages and Difficulties mentioned in the *Introduction*, would chuse a married Life, if they could find *fit Mate*, and to open to them an Opportunity, on *lawful and honourable* Conditions, of judging for themselves, how far their reciprocal Approbation might justify and warrant such their Choice. For we have promis'd already, and do solemnly promise again, That no clandestine Purposes (we mean in the unlawful or dishonourable Sense of the Word) shall, with our Consent or Privity, receive either Aid, or Countenance; and this is as much as any one can undertake: But, lest this our Proposal

posal should give Alarm to the Parents and Guardians of Minors, as being an Encouragement to *Intrigue*, *Fortune-bunting*, and *clandestine Marriage*; we think it incumbent on us, for our own Sake, to obviate such Imputation; and, for theirs, to anticipate any such Fears, and Apprehensions.

And, first, As to the Business of *Intrigue*, either as to Minors, or others; no End, we think, of this Sort, can well be answered: For if such *Intrigue* be already begun; surely, under the Caution and Circumstances here prescribed, for each *Interview*, a Meeting of this Kind must be the most improper in the World for any criminal Purposes; where neither Opportunities or Conveniencies are, in the least, apposite: And such Persons must have as little Invention, as Discretion, to chuse to be at this Expence, to meet on such Occasion, under such untoward Circumstances. Besides, what Presumption is there that our *Guard*, who is a perfect Stranger to both Parties, is to be trusted herein? For we are well aware, that none will offer at this foolish Experiment, but for the ostentatious Brag of publishing the same; which, we must know, can do no great Credit to our Office, or the House of Interview; and therefore, on mere lucrative Considerations, would not be very prudent in us to countenance. So that, in this respect, where an *Intrigue* has already proceeded to any criminal Familiarities, it is manifest we should apprehend
to

to be neither for the Convenience of the Parties, nor for our great Emolument, to be either aiding, privy, or consenting, to the same.

But may not this same Office be made a means of forwarding an *Intrigue*, by such an Opportunity of meeting, and agreeing, on *subsequent* Criminalities?

No doubt but it may; and so, also, may the most innocent Place in the World: But if the Parties are already come to so good an Understanding, and the Lady be prepared to give a Meeting for this Intent; we should recommend it to them, not to be at this unnecessary Expence, or foolish Delay: For, for the same Money, at many well-known Houses, in this Town, they may be much more conveniently accommodated; and, we dare say, much better to their Liking, for any such kind of Purposes.

But still an *Intrigue* may be begun, by this means.

It may be so, 'tis true; so, also, it may, in your own House, or Garden, at School, at Church, and where not? And, if your Daughter be a Girl of this Cast, we know of no Place safe. But a very willing Tit, indeed, she must be, and have a more than ordinary extensive Genius, and exceeding general Turn to Amour, and Gallantry, who could think of being at this Trouble, and Expence, to meet a perfect Stranger, for this Purpose. And such an one would do well to consider, whether, amongst her Father's own Domesticks, there might not be

be a Person well enough suited to these Purposes, before she tries such a Scheme as this; where the Gentleman, she may chance to meet, might be suppos'd to come with other, and more sober Intentions; and then, possibly, may have too much Honour, and Decency, not to be shock'd, and disgusted, with such a very forward Spirit. Therefore, in this Case, we are sure the public Streets would be found to be the much more obvious Rendezvous.

And now, on these Considerations, and many others that very naturally occur hereon, we imagine, any candid and judicious Person must acknowledge, That this Proposal is but awkwardly contrived, either for the Beginnings, Prosecution, or Conclusion, of mere *Intrigue*, or *Gallantry*.

It might be granted, perhaps, that our Proposal is not contrived or intended for the promoting of mere *Intrigue*, and *Gallantry*; but still there is another Kind of *Intrigue*, tho' not so criminal, yet no less *unlawful*, and *pernicious*, than the other; and that is, the seducing and taking away young Women of Condition, and Fortune, under Age, and marrying them without the Consent of Parents, and Guardians; to the great Vexation and Uneasiness of their Friends, and Families: And this Sort of *Intrigue*, such Office, as here propos'd, might possibly be an *Encouragement* to.

This Objection, we trust, is fairly put; and we hope as fairly to answer; And therefore
such

such *Intrigue*, as here specified, must be considered either as already begun with some particular Person, or intended to be so. If the first, then, certainly, the same Opportunities that gave Rise thereto, might, one may reasonably imagine, be made a means of continuing it, without any such expensive, dilatory, and round-about Way, as for Two Persons to *register* themselves, by Consent and Agreement, for the Sake only of two short *Interviews*, at most; for we allow no more: And as to Correspondence by Letter, where Parties are already so well acquainted, they need not, surely, want our Interposition, or Assistance, in the Direction of their *Billets Doux*.

But suppose this *Intrigue* in a manner begun, indeed, and the Parties want only an Interview, to agree on the Method of running away together; for which Purpose, one or two Meetings, at most, may be sufficient; and then this Office will very conveniently furnish out these.

Such, we do not deny, but it may be made to furnish, but not so very conveniently: For if our young Lady be so much her own Mistress, as to go Abroad alone, when and where she pleases; her Inclinations, so thoroughly engaged, and Matters have already proceeded to this Length; both she, and her Paramour, must be very poor Contrivers, indeed, to be forced to be at this Trouble, when a very moderate Degree of *English* Invention cannot but supply them with much more frequent, convenient,

nient, expeditious, and less expensive Opportunities, for this Purpose, than any our Office can furnish out.

But, still, a young Girl may, by this means, look over the List, and have an Opportunity of meeting with any Man whose Description she likes; if she will but, for that Purpose, register herself of Age; and so begin an Intrigue of this Kind.

She may so, we agree; but this, we apprehend, is not very likely she should do: For young Ladies, under Tutelage, very seldom consider the Affair of Marriage in so abstracted a View; unless, by the Tyranny of Parents, or Guardians, their Lives are rendered miserable, or they are in a Way of being forced into a Marriage odious to them: And then, truly, in such Case, she may think of flying, for Refuge and Protection, to any mere Stranger that will take her. But as this Objection begins at Home, were the same to happen, we hold ourselves intirely exculpated.

Thus have we, in some degree, answered all the Objections that can, we apprehend, offer on the score of Intrigue, of either Kind: For we could, indeed, in such our Answers, have been much more explicit, and full, but that, we trust, enough has been already said, on each, to suggest, to any judicious and considerate Person, a sufficient Apology for our Proposal, in this respect.

But;

But, now, be it remembered, that what we have here offered is, principally, with regard to Minors; for as to such Persons, of either Sex, who, by the Laws of this Land, are *sui Juris*, and in a State of Emancipation; we think it not at all incumbent on us to make any other Apology, or Address, than what has been hinted above; That they be careful, and circumspect, and duly consider what they are about to do: For where the parental authoritative Consent ceases, which, by our *English* Laws, it does at the Age of Twenty-one, the Rule then is, "*Matrimonia debent esse libera, & non pendere ex alieno arbitrio.*"

From what has been here said, we should be very sorry to be misunderstood as recommending or encouraging a rebellious Defiance, or headstrong Opposition, in Persons of any Age, or Condition, whatever; for we are well apprised, in a Matter of so much Importance as that of *Marriage*, how much our own Duty, and their natural Rights, require that Parents should be made acquainted, and consulted; and, no doubt, great Deference is due to such their Advice, and Judgment, herein: But, still, where both the Laws of God and our Country permit us a free Choice, and are ready, with all their Power, Sanction, and Authority, to confirm and strengthen the same; I can never comprehend a Duty, or Necessity, from other than mere lucrative Ends, of implicitly submitting my Election to be determined by the sordid or

capricious Views of any Person whatsoever: For Advice and Consultation, according to our Ideas, implies neither authoritative Force, nor coercive Prohibition.

But as this is a Subject we may, possibly, treat more at large, on another Occasion; we shall proceed no farther, at present; but take Notice only of one Objection more, relating to our Proposal, and then submit the Whole to your serious Consideration.

It may be said, perhaps, That the Office will, without doubt, take particular Care, that no Gentleman, or Lady, be balked of an *Interview*: For that, if a real Person should be wanting, it can easily furnish out a sham one, of their own procuring, of either Sex, to supply such Occasion; rather than the Party shall be disappointed.

If the Sham, here objected, could be of any Advantage to the Office, we grant it would be necessary for us to give some Security, that no such foul Proceeding should be had; But, where nothing is to be got by it, we, surely, are not such impolitic Fools, either to run the Risque of blowing ourselves up, by the Discovery; or be at this Trouble for a mere fruitless Vagary. For if any one will once again turn to Article XX. they will easily be satisfied, that the Fees to the Office cannot well be more than One of the Half-Guineas given, on such *Interview*; as the Fees to our *Guard*, and *House*, will go pretty deep in the other: And, when
they

they are both paid, what great Profit, or Advantage, will accrue to us, by procuring a sham Person, to pay us back our own Half-Guinea, which we must be suppos'd necessarily to supply them with, for the Occasion; or put ourselves intirely in the Power of our *Guard*, by making him privy to the Cheat?

But tho' this Sham might not answer to the Office, frequently repeated; yet, in its Infancy, and at first setting out, it may not be impolitic to try this Experiment, by way of Decoy, to draw in others.

If our Office was of that Nature to be puff'd in the public Papers, and we could advertise our great Business, and Success herein; it might not be amiss: But our Case is otherwise: For *Taciturnity*, *Reputation*, and *Privacy*, we imagine to be our most prudent Method; neither do we know, at present, any better Manner of recommending ourselves. Therefore, in this respect, it would not, we apprehend, answer our End, at first setting out, more, than if we were ever so well established, and had no need of any such Expedient. And, for this Reason, it may not be improper, in this Place, once for all, previously to admonish every Person, into whose Hands this Proposal may come, That whatever Advertisements, or Puffs, of this Kind, shall hereafter be found, in any of the Papers (for such may be inserted), we absolutely renounce, and disclaim. For our Address, as has been before observed, is altogether made to the
private

private Judgment and Approbation of Individuals; and by such, only, it is, that our Office must stand, or fall.



POSTSCRIPT.

IF the foregoing Proposal should meet with Success, and Encouragement; it cannot, we apprehend, be thought unreasonable, that the Persons, for whose private Emolument we have given ourselves this Trouble, ought to receive such Profits, and Advantages, as may, possibly, accrue from it: And therefore to prevent, as much as we can, any others from being before-hand with us, and taking away such Benefit; we think it not improper to acquaint the Public, That the Office for the Gentlemen is already fix'd, and taken; *viz.* the *Corner House on the Left Hand in Newcastle-Court near Temple-Bar, at the upper End leading through the Passage to Boswell-Court*; and the other, for the Ladies, will be taken *near Charing-Cross*; of which public Notice shall be given as soon as the Articles for the same are sign'd; and the same shall be open'd, and a proper Registrar appointed to attend
at

at each, on the 27th Day of *March* next following; unless, in the mean time, sufficient Cause to the contrary appear, or be signified to us. For the Reason why we have chosen to publish this our Plan, and Proposal, so long before the said Offices are to be opened, is, that we may be well apprised of any Objections to the same, that may be offered to us; and so desist from proceeding any farther therein; or receive any additional Improvements, from such as shall take the same into serious Consideration, and be so kind, as to communicate their Sentiments to us: For which Purpose, all Letters, &c. directed for *A. Z.* and left for us, with the Publisher of this Pamphlet, shall be duly considered, and thankfully acknowledged.

As we really profess ourselves candid herein, we should be glad to save any Person, who might ever so much disapprove our Scheme, the Trouble of a public Invektive, which, as we have hinted before, we shall not think ourselves under any Obligation of taking the least Notice of; because a private Remonstrance, if of Weight, shall find its full Effect with us: For such we shall consider, as the genuine Dictates of the sober and disinterested Judgment; whilst the other might be well enough suppos'd to arise from rancorous or mercenary Motives. And whatever shall be candidly suggested to us, on either Side of the Question, we promise, shall have a fair and impartial Examination;

mination; and, in its due Time, be communicated to the Public.

As there are Persons, we presume, who may think so much like ourselves, as to see this Proposal in no unreasonable Light; and perhaps, too, be inclined to give it immediate Encouragement, was an Opportunity offered: To such, then, if any such there be, the Remainder, of what we have to say, is address'd.

In our VIIIth Article we have promis'd, That, when Thirty Persons, on each Register, are enter'd, the Books shall be laid open, for public Inspection; and therefore, between the Time of Publication hereof, and the Day herein appointed for opening the said Offices, if any Gentleman, or Lady, will send, directed for *A. Z.* as above, his, or her, Letter of Description, &c. as see *Precedent*, in order to be register'd; the same shall be taken care of, and enter'd, accordingly, without Fee, or Reward: But, from the Day the said Offices are open'd, no such Letter of Description, &c. will be receiv'd, unless the Fee be sent at the same time: And it is, moreover, expected, from all such as shall think proper to send their Letters of Description, &c. before the Opening of the said Offices; that, within a Month after the Opening the Books for Inspection (of which public Notice shall be given), they send, and pay in, their Fees; otherwise such, their Entries, will be eras'd: Neither will any Ap-
plication

plication for Interview, or Letters of Correspondence (as see Notes on Art. XII, XIII.) be forwarded, or any Intercourse, between any Persons, be aided, till such their Fees are discharged. But if any unanswerable Objection should arise, to the Prosecution of our Plan; due Notice thereof shall be given, to all such as have favour'd us with their Letters of Description for Entry; and the same either immediately burnt, or return'd, as shall be requir'd.

Note, If any Person, hereafter, shall chuse to change his or her *popular Name* or *Description*, or any other Matter, or Thing, register'd in the Book for Inspection, as Circumstances shall alter; such Gentleman, or Lady, by Letter, authenticated as above, signifying their Pleasure herein, shall be register'd, and enter'd, over again, according to such their Directions, by sending, with the said Letter, Half a Crown Fee; and their first Entry eras'd. And if, on any Change of Mind, Alteration of Circumstances, intermediate Courtship, or Marriage, any Person shall desire their Entry to be quite eras'd; the same shall be punctually comply'd with, on due Notice given, on both Books, without Fee, or Reward.

Moreover, If any Person see Cause to alter or change his or her *second Name, Number,*
or

or *Direction*, for *Correspondence*, enter'd in the private Book (as see *Precedent*, and *Note* on Art. VII.); by Letter, as above, and One Shilling Fee therewith, the same shall be alter'd, or chang'd, as requir'd, and observ'd, accordingly.

F I N I S.



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